



Family Court Project

Madison County

Basic Information

Population:	130,348 (Madison Co. Census 2013)
County Seat:	Anderson
Judicial Officers:	Judges: Angela Warner Sims, George Pancol, Thomas Newman Jr., David Happe, Thomas Clem, and Dennis Carroll. Magistrate: Stephen Clase. Commissioners: Jason Childers, Chris Cage, Michael Withers
Date of Project Implementation:	9/1/2010
Project Judge/s:	David Happe
Administrative Contact:	Jim Hunter, Court Administrator
Project Funding:	ADR Fund

Family Court Mission Statement

Please provide a mission statement for your Family Court Programming

The Family Court Project in Madison County was established to serve families who are in “worst-case” scenarios (meaning having more than one case in multiple courts) by sharing information and coordinating services in order to avoid duplicate and conflicting orders. The Family Court Project will also establish an Alternative Dispute Resolution Plan to provide funding in instances where some form of ADR (mediation, counseling, etc.) is appropriate for the family in question, regardless of ability to pay. The Family Court Project will also provide a Legal Self Help Center that will assist Pro Se Litigants in filling out court forms and pleadings, and doing their own legal research. The Legal Self Help Center will provide paperwork for common Pro Se filings, and, via dedicated computer terminal, will allow on-line access to certain websites that can assist the Pro Se litigant.

Family Court Programming

Please provide a description your Family Court Programming

The Family Court Project of Madison County provides Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) in instances where it is appropriate for families who have cases in the Madison County Circuit Court. The ADR fund, established by the adoption of an ADR plan, is utilized in instances where the family in question is unable to pay for the appropriate ADR (mediation, counseling, etc.) service. The Family Court Project also maintains a Legal Self Help Center (currently being updated and relocated to promote increased usage), which provides Self Help Court Forms, and on-line access to the STAD website and other websites that can assist Pro Se litigants in getting legal advice, filling out forms, making accurate pleadings, etc. In June 2014, The Family Court Project will initiate a program where an attorney will be on-site one day per week to provide legal assistance to Pro Se litigants who have been referred by the court due to the nature of their pleading or conflict. The attorney in question

will resolve conflict when possible, and when resolution is not possible, will assist the Pro Se litigants in drafting accurate pleadings so that courts can deal with the matter more expediently.

Number of Families Served

Please provide an estimate of the number of families served through the Family Court Programming

30